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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 BRUSSELS 001679

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/29/2018

TAGS: [AF](#) [BO](#) [EUN](#) [GG](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PARM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [RS](#)

SUBJECT: NEW EUPOL HOM WOULD LIKE TO DEPLOY THROUGHOUT
AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. BRU 3501

[1](#)B. BRU 0882

[1](#)C. BRU 0348

Classified By: CHRISTOPHER DAVIS FOR REASON 1.4B/D

New EUPOL Head of Mission would like to deploy throughout
Afghanistan

[1](#)1. (SBU) Summary: On October 24 the new EUPOL Head of Mission, Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup, met with USEU Ambassador to discuss his mission, now that the PSC has approved the doubling of personnel and reassessed the mandate. Vittrup said that EUPOL would like to deploy to the Czech PRT in Logar; however, the Czechs cannot agree, since the U.S. still provides the logistical support there. He will raise this with Ambassador Wood. Vittrup highlighted his positive experiences working with the U.S. in previous positions and intends to coordinate EUPOL's efforts closely with the U.S. in Afghanistan. He plans to meet U.S. leadership during the week of November 3, especially the CSTC-A Commander and U.S. Ambassador. During this meeting, CPCC's Director for the Middle East and Asia, Dr. Allison Weston said that the PSC has agreed that the current EUPOL mandate allows for limited support at district levels, especially in the assessing and mentoring phases of FDD. However, she emphasized that member states s till view Kabul, the Regional Commands and the PRTs as EUPOL's primary focus. End Summary.

EUPOL goal to deploy throughout all of Afghanistan

[1](#)2. (SBU) In his meeting October 24 with USEU Ambassador, Danish Police Commissioner Kai Vittrup - who replaced Brigadier Gen Jurgen Scholz barely a week before as Head of the EU Police Mission in Afghanistan - stressed the importance of EUPOL deployment throughout Afghanistan. He was accompanied by the CPCC (Civilian Operations Command) Office Director for Asia and Middle East, Dr. Alison Weston and EUPOL Political Advisor, Mr. Jean-Baptiste Valmary. Vittrup said EUPOL's effectiveness should increase as personnel go up from 240 to 400 beginning in December, and as EUPOL's senior management team is reinforced. Further

improving the outlook, Vittrup said, is his commitment to coordinating closely with the U.S. and the international community. The new Afghan Minister of Interior and a new EU Special Representative are positives as well. Vittrup cautioned, however, that EUPOL's mission and capabilities are often misunderstood. The mandate is meant to support a sustainable command structure from Kabul down to the Districts, rather than to train police specifically.

Difficulty getting into the Czech PRT of Logar

13. (SBU) Vittrup asked for help in placing EUPOL personnel in the Logar PRT just south of Kabul, particularly since it is now run by an EU member state. Even though the Czechs recently took over staffing this PRT from the U.S., the U.S., rather than the Czechs, still provides the logistical support; therefore the Czechs cannot agree to a EUPOL presence without EUPOL's technical agreement with the U.S. Vittrup said he intends to raise this matter with Ambassador Wood in Kabul.

FDD and EUPOL's Mandate

14. (SBU) Vittrup told the Ambassador that he was very familiar with CSTC-A's ambitious Focused District Development (FDD) program to reform Afghan police district by district, through training, equipping and mentoring. He thought EUPOL's mandate was complementary to FDD-EUPOL from the top down, and FDD from the districts up. However, he said the EU does understand that the district level is now where

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international assistance is needed most. Dr. Alison Weston from the CPCC intervened to tell the Ambassador that EU CIVCOM has reassessed the EUPOL mandate and OPLAN, determining that they provide enough flexibility for the EUPOL HoM to deploy personnel at the district level, when it is necessary and practical, and when security conditions are acceptable. Weston added, however, that it is unlikely EUPOL will operate extensively at the district level, because its primary instruction from member states is to mentor at the strategic and regional levels. That said, EUPOL could help FDD by providing the assessment and mentoring (Phases I & III) aspects of FDD at PRTs and in some districts, where practical, and where the security and support environment permit.

EUPOL Deployment to U.S. PRTs

15. (C) Vittrup asked about the status of a technical agreement with the United States, especially since EUPOL is aggressively searching for PRT locations to deploy its additional personnel, and the absorption capacity of European PRTs is limited. He and the Council Secretariat experts accompanying him relayed that EUPOL could better fulfill its mandate if deployed in U.S. PRTs for two reasons: EU deployment would be almost country-wide providing continuity in reform at the strategic, institutional, and leadership levels; second, it would send the political signal to the Afghans that the international community is united in its efforts, and to EU member states that the United States values EUPOL. Vittrup acknowledged that he also intends to improve on-the-ground coordination with ISAF/OEF, in the absence of technical agreements with NATO and the U.S.

Visit to Washington

16. (SBU) Vittrup said he was eager to get to Kabul. He is expected to brief the EU member states on EUPOL and in January will make recommendations for the future of the mission. He said he will not visit Washington, D.C. until January or February, likely as part of a larger EU delegation including: the EU Commission Head of Delegation in Kabul; and the EUSR for Afghanistan, Mr. Ettore Sequi.

Bio note: Kai Vittrup-the right man for the job

¶7. (SBU) Kai Vittrup, a Danish police professional, replaces two successive German predecessors in a mission perceived by many to be ineffective. In addition to a 40-year career in the Danish national police force, he has worked for the UN as Police Commissioner for UNMIK (2006-06) and UNMIS (2006-08). Vittrup was also Senior Police Advisor for the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq from 2003-2004. He is widely regarded as a capable leader who will emphasize coordination with other international actors -- particularly the United States. According to EU contacts, he is largely seen as the right leader to improve EUPOL on the heels of EU's recent decision to expand from 240 to roughly 400 authorized personnel.

Comment: U.S.-EU/NATO-EU Technical Agreements

¶8. (C) UK and Council Secretariat officials have told USEU separately that European leaders understand the importance of getting Afghanistan right, even if European publics may not. Member State and Council Secretariat contacts have also told USEU separately that being able to deploy in U.S. PRTs would improve EUPOL. The U.S. may be well placed to enhance the EU's role in building up the Afghan National Police. USEU officials and visitors from Washington are recurrently reminded by EU Council Secretariat officials that they are awaiting U.S. response to the EU's request for a technical agreement that will support EUPOL's deployment in U.S. areas. Vittrup told the Ambassador that at least half of the

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projected 400 police should be deployed outside of Kabul, but that this will be difficult absent such a formal technical agreement with the U.S.

¶9. (C) Most member states and non-EU contributing countries, including Canada, want to ensure that obstacles such as this one are removed, so that EUPOL, with new leadership, can best provide added value in police reform.

SILVERBERG

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